

FACT SHEET

**Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa)
Superfund Site
Riverdale, Iowa**



March 2002

INTRODUCTION

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is asking for comments on an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) and EPA's Recommended Removal Action Alternative to address contamination at certain areas at the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa) - Davenport Works facility. As a result of aluminum production and waste management activities, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) have been released to surface water, sediment, soil and groundwater. The EE/CA evaluated four removal action alternatives to address exposure to surface water and sediment in a wetland area of the Eastern Historical Disposal Site and six removal action alternatives to address the potential for unconsolidated zone groundwater to migrate to the Mississippi River (Mississippi River Pool #15) via Outfall 002 surface water. EPA recommends the following removal action alternative for the Eastern Historical Disposal Site and Outfall 002 areas: installation of fill material and grading of the wetland area and installation of an open-top drainage channel to isolate water in the north portion of Outfall 002 ditch from the impacted material beneath.

Public Comment Period

EPA is asking for your comments on the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) for the Eastern Historical Site, Outfall 002, and Wetland 2. Written comments will be taken through April 27, 2002.

Please send your comments to:

Beckie Himes
Community Involvement Coordinator
EPA, Region 7
Office of External Programs
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
E-mail: himes.beckie@epa.gov

SITE DESCRIPTION

The Alcoa facility is adjacent to the Mississippi River and occupies about 460 acres in the Town of Riverdale, near the Quad Cities (Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa, and Moline and Rock Island, Illinois). The Alcoa facility is bounded on the north by State Route 67, on the south by the Mississippi River, on the east by the Riverside Power Plant, and on the west by a petroleum storage facility and residences located along South Bellingham Street. The Alcoa facility, the world's largest aluminum rolling mill, began operations in the late 1940s and has undergone almost continuous expansion and modernization since that time.

SITE ACTIVITIES

EPA and Alcoa signed an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) in August 1995 that required evaluation/investigation of the areas identified in the Facility Site Assessment (FSA) Report. The FSA Report documented more than 75 areas that would require some level of further evaluation and/or investigation due to the likelihood of past releases of hazardous substances from production or waste management activities. A process was developed to assess the risk at the various FSA units that primarily focuses on the human health risk that may result from direct contact with surface and subsurface soils. In general, Alcoa prepares, for EPA review and approval, a Risk-Based Concentration (RBC) Report that documents the evaluation of an FSA unit or FSA unit grouping. A total of 44 FSA units have been evaluated in the 14 RBC Reports that have been completed to date. It was determined that a removal action was necessary for the Eastern Historical Disposal Site and the Outfall 002 drainage area. Based on the information and risk evaluation presented in the RBC Reports, it was determined that the other FSA units do not require further action. Evaluation of the remainder of the 75 FSA units is ongoing.

An ecological evaluation of the FSA units was also conducted and is documented in the September 2001 report, Ecological Risk Characterization - Facility Site Assessment Units. Implementation of the proposed removal action alternative for the wetland area of the Eastern Historical Disposal Site will address the potential risk to ecological receptors.

The 1995 AOC also requires a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) to determine the nature and extent of groundwater contamination. The Groundwater RI/FS is ongoing.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

The 30-day public comment period begins March 29, 2002, and ends April 27, 2002. The Administrative Record file (including the EE/CA and the EPA Determination of Recommended Removal Action Alternative) is available for public review at the Bettendorf Public Library, 2950 Learning Campus Drive, Bettendorf, Iowa, during normal business hours.

EPA encourages members of the public to review and provide comments on the EE/CA and the recommended removal action alternative. EPA will select a final removal action alternative after all comments received during the public comment period have been considered. Written comments, postmarked no later than April 27, 2002, and questions about the site, should be directed to:

Beckie Himes, Community Involvement Coordinator
Office of External Programs
U.S. EPA Region 7
901 N. 5th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66101
913-551-7003 or toll-free 1-800-223-0425